

LV.—New Subspecies of *Protoxerus stangeri*, the Giant Squirrel of Equatorial Africa. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE Museum series of *Protoxerus stangeri* now numbers 92 specimens, ranging from the Gold Coast to Kavirondo, and from Nigeria southwards to N. Angola. They are fairly equally divided among the 14 subspecies which appear to be worthy of subspecific recognition. Of these four new ones need description.

The differences are merely of colour, as I can find no cranial characters of any value.

Protoxerus stangeri dissonus, subsp. n.

Nearly allied to *P. s. eborivorus*, but paler throughout.

Back with the light rings more buffy than in *eborivorus*, less ochraceous, the resulting colour being an approach to that of *nordhoffi*, which is still more yellowish. Shoulders distinctly lighter than back. Under surface more whitish. Crown dark hoary-grey, not abruptly separated. Lateral line grizzled grey. Buffy fringes of forearms well marked, lighter than in *eborivorus*. Hind limbs and feet buffy ochraceous. Tail with the white tips of the hairs more strongly contrasted.

Hind foot of type 65 mm.; greatest skull-length 67.

Hab. Ja River, Cameroons. Type from Bitye, 2000'.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 9.10.2.20. Original number 17. Collected 3rd September, 1908, by Mr. G. L. Bates. Six specimens.

This is one of the few cases where an animal of the Ja River, draining eastwards, is definably different from its ally of the Como and Benito rivers, draining direct to the coast; but the difference in general tone from Mr. Bates's examples of *eborivorus* is quite well-marked.

Protoxerus stangeri mœrens, subsp. n.

A dark-coloured race from the Welle, very like *P. s. eborivorus* of the West Coast.

General appearance very much as in *eborivorus*, consequently much darker than in the geographical neighbour, *notabilis*. The back blackish, finely ticked with ochraceous.

Chest dark grizzled grey, belly more brownish, the hairs tipped with buffy. Ears without buffy postauricular patches. Forearms with scarcely any buffy on their under surface, while they are always distinctly buffy in *eborivorus*; hands practically black. Legs deep rufous, stronger than in *eborivorus*; feet mixed black and rufous.

Hind foot of type 61 mm.; greatest length of skull 66.

Hab. Middle Welle River. Type from Lobi, near Angu, about 24° E.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 7. 7. 8. 182. Original number 57. Collected 17th February, 1906, by Boyd Alexander on the Alexander-Gosling Expedition. One specimen.

Considering its distance from the West Coast, and the fact that much lighter-coloured forms (*nordhoffi*, *dissonus*) occur in the intermediate area, this subspecies is curiously like the Gaboon *eborivorus*, but may be distinguished by the reduction of the rufous on the forearms and the darker red hind legs. It is probably really a darkened ally of the Congo *notabilis*.

Protoxerus stangeri notabilis, subsp. n.

Like *centricola*, but colour richer and brighter.

General characters of the *centricola* of Uganda, but the back more strongly ochraceous, this colour also extending more vividly on to the nape and scarcely lightening on the shoulders. Posteriorly the dorsal colour extends richly on to the hips and legs—rich ochraceous rufous instead of brownish rufous. Chest whitish; belly buffy. Lateral line more strongly white-grizzled than in *centricola*. Hands blackish with many of the finer hairs ochraceous; feet rich ochraceous. Tail-hairs more prominently white-tipped.

Hind foot of type 63 mm.; condylo-incisive length of skull 60.

Hab. Ituri region of Upper Congo; type from Avakubi; others from Poko and Mawambi.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 14. 2. 11. 7. Original number 199. Collected 1st November, 1912, by Dr. Cuthbert Christy. Six specimens.

This fine animal has hitherto been referred to *centricola*, but a comparison of the series of specimens now available both from the Ituri region and Uganda shows that those of the former are so much more richly coloured as to deserve subspecific distinction.

Protoxerus stangeri torrentium, subsp. n.

A yellowish grey-headed form with a *signatus*-like lateral line.

General upper colour buffy yellowish, grizzled with black, not rufous as in *eborivorus* and *centricola*, but nearly as yellow as in *stangeri*. Top of head strongly-contrasted hoary-grey. Throat greyish white with brown bases to the hairs. Belly-hairs ochraceous buffy, the line edging the belly black as in *signatus*, a few hairs only with white rings. A buffy patch behind each ear. Forearms ochraceous buffy, and the hands also more ochraceous than in the neighbouring forms. Inguinal region and inner side of legs also ochraceous buffy, which becomes more strongly reddish on the ankles and distal part of the feet.

Hind foot of type 60 mm.; condylo-incisive length of skull 58.

Hab. Eastern province of the Congo, to the east of the Stanley Falls.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 1. 5. 4. 3. Original number 364. Presented by the Congo Museum, Tervueren. One specimen.

The combination of yellowish ground-colour, contrasted grey head, buffy postauricular patches, and black *signatus*-like lateral line will readily distinguish this well-marked subspecies.

The Museum now possesses four further examples of *P. s. signatus*, collected by the Rev. H. M. Whiteside at Ikau and Bompona.

LVI.—*A new Ray from the Mediterranean.*

By C. TATE REGAN, M.A., F.R.S.

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Raia polystigma, sp. n.

Raia batis (non L.), Bonap. Faun. Ital. Pesci, Fasc. xxix. p. 154, pl. lxvii. fig. 1.

Disc broader than long, its width $\frac{3}{5}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total length; anterior margins slightly undulated; outer angles obtuse;